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Hong Kong, Nov. 19 (AP)— William Downey of New Brit-

William Downey of New Britain, Conn., said today his mother may ask President Johnson to appeal to the Chinese Communists to release his brother John, who is serving a life term on espionage charges.

John Downey, 34, a civilian employe of the U.S. Army, was aboard a plane the Chinese Communists shot down in November, 1952. William and his mother, Mrs. Mary Downey, returned to Hong Kong from Red China yesterday after visiting John. They left by air for Tokyo and the United States today.